Lux et Lex: Volume 1, Number 2

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Recommended Citation
Clark, Delores; Towne, Gary; Rex, Janet; Christianson, Amy; Pederson, Randy; and Slater, Sandy, "Lux et Lex: Volume 1, Number 2" (1991). *Lux et Lex*. 3.
https://commons.und.edu/lux-et-lex/3

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Die Schoepfung, A Musical Treasure

At the summit of a prodigious career in music, Franz Joseph Haydn wrote a masterpiece of such acclaim that it has been performed in Vienna every year since its debut in 1798. At its premier performance for the royal family, this work made one listener's "whole body ice-cold, sometimes a burning heat overcame me, and more than once I was afraid that I would have a stroke" (Landon, 1977). The score of this oratorio, The Creation or Die Schoepfung is in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library, and electrifies the imagination of a Rare Book connoisseur with its historical and aesthetic significance. This is the type of book Emily Dickinson speaks of in her poem, "In a Library,"

"Old volumes shake their vellum heads,
And tantalize, just so."

This rare first edition engraved score of The Creation was published in 1800 by Haydn himself, and distributed by Artaria and Company to the subscribers listed on the initial pages. During this period, musicians were sponsored by royal patrons who usually held all rights to the music. However, due to a new clause in Haydn's contract with Prince Esterhazy, the proceeds of this score were to belong to Haydn. Haydn solicited subscribers to help pay the engraving and performance costs.

A handwritten inscription in the front indicates that this copy was a Christmas gift to the Hungarian composer Erno Dohnanyi in 1923, but its recent history eludes us. The title page reads:


Handwritten instrumentation notes (in another hand) in the margins indicate the use of multiple wind instruments on each part, an unusual practice which would have been used in a very large scale performance, perhaps one of the early English or Viennese extravaganzas. Some of these performances were conducted by Haydn himself, and benefits were donated to the orphans and widows' fund. The paper is linen and the copy bears the number 50, which is Artaria's mailing number (Landon, 1977). The small "JH" stamp in the lower right corner is Haydn's official stamp (Landon, 1991). The volume is 31 cm. tall and consists of the title page, the initial pages of subscribers, and 303 pages of full score music.

A substantial score was costly to engrave, hence the subscriber list consists of 507 wealthy and notable persons, and certainly some interesting ones, in fact, practically the entire English Royal Family. Among other notable European subscribers were William Blake, Charles Wesley, the London impresario Saloman, and noteworthy musicians, Cannabich, Fux, Forster, and Stadler. Austrian nobility who subscribed were Prince Esterhazy, Prince Schwarzenberg, and, among the Russian gentry, subscribers were Eberl, music master in Petersburg, and Prince Babouschkin of Moscow. These 507 subscribers each received a copy for their efforts in assisting Haydn to pay engraving and performance costs.

By the time of The Creation, Haydn had well established his musical prowess and endeared himself to the Viennese public. It is quite charming to see names of those who could ill afford such a fee subscribing to honor Papa Haydn. This is true especially when one considers the fact that the score could serve no practical purpose for these subscribers. The ownership of a score was a sign of the value ascribed to Haydn's great art. The value they placed in the aesthetic and "intellectual content" of Die Schoepfung continued to Page 4
Original Sources for the Study of Women's History

Many of the manuscript collections in the Eben R. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library contain original documents relating to women's history. Women's lives can be traced as early as settlers, community leaders, horticulturists, political activists, journalists, and regional writers. Manuscripts, letters, diaries, and photographs are filled with their stories.

The settlement period of North Dakota is particularly well documented within the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection which encompasses over 1200 individual collections. Recollections of the Pembina County Pioneer Daughters detail the lives of early settlers of the county. Mary Hodgson, who settled in Bowsman in 1882 writes, "In order to get our first chickens, we purchased some bantam eggs and rolled them in dirt. Then we took the eggs from a wild duck and a prairie chicken and put the hen in their place. Every egg hatched and the tiny chicks were thus raised for the house." Anna Gei's story is a poignant one. She initially settled in the Icelandic community of Mountain in 1880 in a dugout with her husband, John, son Kristian, and stepson, Magnus. The family built a two-room shanty a year or two later when four daughters were eventually born. During the next twenty years, Anna lost her husband, three of her daughters, her stepson, and adopted out her youngest daughter to a willing neighbor. Yet in 1901, when she replaced her shanty with a frame house, she affectionately remarked, "My dear old shanty. I regret leaving it. I have out her youngest daughter to a willing neighbor . Yet In 1901, had such a good time here."

One hundred years later, the records of the North Dakota Chapter of the National Organization of Women, 1972 to 1982, continued to address a women's role in society. In the early 1970s, many of the national N.O.W. activists recruited members in the state and in 1972 successfully convened the first chapter in Grand Forks. N.O.W. members actively supported the Equal Rights Amendment which was ratified in North Dakota in 1975.

Women authors are represented by several collections. Fannie Bloor, known as "Mother Bloor," feminist, labor agitator and Socialist Labor Party in 1899 and ran as a socialist Congressional candidate in 1910, dealt with women's rights and concerns of the day. She sent articles to the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1872 to 1874 that recounted life at Fort McKeen, renamed Fort Abraham Lincoln in 1872, and life in the emerging town of Edington, now Bismarck. She also commented on the growth of Bismarck and presented her thoughts on women's lives. In April 1874, Slaughter writes "Reform, like Charity, should begin at home. Let a wife be her husband's helpmeet, but a companion in a household drudge, nor dressmaker's doll, but a helmsmate as God and nature meant she should be."
Special Collections Announces New Exhibit

University of North Dakota pottery is featured in a new exhibit in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections. "UND Pottery: The Cable Years" includes ceramic pieces, photographs, and records from Margaret Kelly Cable's tenure as head of the Ceramics Department, 1910 to 1949, except for the "Bisbee 1904" leaf ash tray which is the oldest known pottery made at UND.

Cable came to the University after working with the Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis, where the use of traditional shapes and glazes predominated. The variety of glazes and techniques used in UND pottery reflects Cable's personal interest in experimentation, as well as the number of people producing ceramics and the long production period. Pieces range from an elegant Art Nouveau vase to bowls decorated with native North Dakota flora and fauna, including the mosquito.

From 1936 to 1942, decorative pieces and utilitarian items used in the public school hot lunch program were produced as a Works Progress Administration project. This dual purpose of utility and decoration was present at the beginning of the pottery movement in Cincinnati, Ohio during the late nineteenth century, when the established ceramic industry supported the artistic movement. During Cable's tenure, University of North Dakota pottery was also displayed at major expositions, including the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, and the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago.

Pieces used in the display are on loan from the Visual Arts Department of the Hughes Fine Arts Center. Photographs are from the University Archives Photographic Collection, and records are from the archives of the Ceramics Department, School of Engineering and Mines.

— Amy Christianson, Special Collections

CFL Contributes to Short Title Catalogue

Until just recently, North Dakota was not represented in the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), an international project centered at the British Library. In October 1990, the Chester Fritz Library joined over five hundred American and Canadian libraries and submitted eighty-nine titles to the North American branch of the Catalogue (ESTC/NA) which is located at the University of California, Riverside, Tomas Rivera Library, Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research. The project records all titles printed in the British Isles and its colonies from 1701-1800, as well as, all titles printed in the English language in other parts of the world. The Library's oldest contribution was the corrected sixth edition of poetry, The Works of Mr. John Oldham, Together with His Remains, printed in London in 1703 for "Dan. Brown, at the Black Swan without Temple-Barr; John Nicholson, at the King's Arms in Little-Britain; Benj. Tooke, at the Middle-Temple Gate, Fleetstreet; and George Strahan, at the Golden-Ball over against the Royal Exchange."

The project enters bibliographic data into the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). In the future the Catalogue will be available on CD-ROM, but it will not appear in printed form. The online catalog allows for the creation of both intellectual and physical access of materials by means of a comprehensive bibliographic record and a listing of all participating libraries which hold a particular title. The importance of the Catalogue for the interested researcher can not be underestimated. It opens up the entire world of the eighteenth century printed word and intellectual thought as it survives today.

— Sandy Beidler, Special Collections

Die Schoepfung continued from Page 1

the work is present for us today, just as it was for the Viennese aristocracy who bought out tickets and arrived three hours early for public performances.

The libretto, written by Gottfried von Sweiten, in both English and German is a depiction of The Creation in three parts. Von Sweiten borrowed extensively from Biblical text, Milton's Paradise Lost, and an unidentified poem by Lidley. The first two parts cover the first six days of creation, and the last part describes the seventh day in a final song of praise. The individual sections also have the three-part structure, with a Biblical section from Genesis, a lyrical commentary, and a final praise section. The solos are sung by three angels, Uriel, Raphael and Gabriel. Altogether, it is a quite effective piece of music, although some criticism of the English text exists. Von Sweiten, it appears, did not have as fluent control of the English language as he did German.

For a scholar, the very existence of this book in a library gives empirical evidence for the value of meticulous identification and preservation of materials. It is indeed a rare experience to hold history and art in one's hands. It is, as H.C. Robbins Landon said, "really almost as if The Creation was man's hope for a peaceful future (uncertain, at best, in 1799) and man's consolation for a clouded present" (Landon, 1977).

— Delores Clark, Acquisitions/Bibliographic Control and Gary Towne, Chair, Senate Library Committee and Professor of Music

References


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to in paper is also available in CD-ROM.

The Library currently subscribes to two indexes, the Academic Index which is similar to the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature but also includes some scholarly publications and ERIC which indexes and abstracts the journal literature and research reports in the field of education. The recent selection of several other CD-ROM databases will be announced soon.

The Library has experimented with bringing in several CD-ROM databases for test trials and to judge library user reaction before subscribing. In most instances, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. More trials are yet to come and will include indexes to government documents, sports and recreation, public affairs and public policy, business, engineering, aerospace, and basic sciences. If you have not used any of the CD-ROM databases as of yet, let me offer this quote from one student who said of them, "Since these systems have been installed, research is much more convenient."

— Randy Pederson, Reference and Research Services

Lux et Lex

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